A GREAT WEEK.

Merchants Say That Holiday Trade Was Wonderful.

Many Say That the Records Were Broken.

FOR BETTER TIMES.

Prelude to Greater Activity in All Lines.

Real Estate Sales Continue to Be Encouraging.

Christmas is here, and the hurry and bustle of the holiday trade is at an Now that the din of business has subsided it is evident that the season's trade has eclipsed all records in the history of the capital city. There are proofs on all hand of the substantial growth of Topeka both from a financial standpoint, and as regard—population of about \$10,000, from Guilford Dudley. There is no question about its being There is no question about its being the best Christmas season we have ever had in Topeka," was the remark of one of the merchants, "Our holiday trade has been 50 per cent better than a year ago," he continued. Other merchants have placed their increase in trade at from 10 to 30 per cent, while there were none of the merchants interviewed who experienced a decrease in the continuous contin terviewed who experienced a decrease, although in one or two cases it was reported that no particular gain had been made. A conservative estimate of the increase of the volume of trade over last year would be between 15 and 30 per cent.

per cent.

Notwithstanding the fact that the shoppers responded fairly well to the request on the part of the merchants that they do their purchasing early, the m. d rush at the last minute was, if anything more intense than ever. The clerks in the stores as they left for their respective abodes last night had the appearance of being decidedly "shop worn," and great was the rejoicing that the time had come when "shop worn," and great was the rejoicing that the time had come when
they could enjoy a breathing spell. In
a number of the stores the jam was
so great that it was difficult to wend
one's way through the crowds.

The farmers for the most part waited
that this wask before a waiter that

The farmers for the most part waited until this week before making their purchases on account of the heaviness of the roads during the preceding two or three weeks. One feature of the holiday trade which was noticeable was the for that there were an unusually large number of buyers from the outlying towns. The grocers are not usually included with those merchants who are generally supposed to profit to a large degree by the outside trade but in regard to this A. L. Green, of the firm gard to this A. L. Green of the firm of William Green & Son, had the fol-lowing to say: "We have had a very good out of town trade. It is especial-by the fancy goods that these people buy." Continuing Mr. Green said: The trade has been exceptionally good better than I have ever known it. The people have not only been buy-a lot of goods but they have bought

cent better than last year, although I do not know that I would attribute it altogether to the Christmas season, as

Topeka."

E. H. Crosby of Crosby Brothers'
Dry Goods company asserted that the trade at his store up to Wednesday evening was greater than for the entire holiday season a year ago, and this in spite of the fact that last year the teachers of the state met in Topeka during the holidays and aided materially in swelling the volume of trade.

cial condition in Topeka," was the statement of Mr. Crosby, "The weather has been favorable to our trade. Last year was so warm that the year was so warm that the sale of coats was light. This year the people have been buying the necessary things and also the strictly holiday goods. We have had a fine gain in business every month this year. In November, when the teachers were here, the gain was especially marked."

This increase in trade has also beautiful diamend brooch. Each wombor an contributed a certain amount and the purchase was made by Mrs. Knox, wife of the secretary of state.

This increase in trade has also been This increase in trade has also been felt at the Mills Dry Goods store. "During the fall months," said Mr. Mills, "and increase in buying has been noticeable, and an additional increase was also brought on with the advent of the holiday season. According to our books, there was exactly 25 per cent more sales last week than one year before."

W. W. Whitney, manager for the Warren M. Crosby Dry Goods company, asserted that the season had been a record breaker at the Crosby store and that the need of more room has been felt.

store and that the need of more room has been felt.

"Great." was the way H. A. Auerbach of the Palace Clothing company put it. George Stansheld, the druggist, expressed himself in a somewhat similar manner, thus: "Fine; never had a better trade in my life." W. F. Roehr, the music man: "We have had a steady trade for the month and are very well satisfied." C. W. Hanchet, manager of the Topeka Woolworth Five and Ten cent store: "Our business has been the best in the history of the store."

The stationery confectionery and jewelry stores were among those to reap the benefits of the trisk Christmas trade.

reap the benefits of the orisk Christ-mas trade.

The fact that the receipts for the sale of postage stamps at the Topeka postoffice showed an increase of 30 per cent over last year speaks well for the prosperous condition of the capital city.

Another thing that looks good to those vitally interested in the progress of Topeka is the fact that the prospects are bright for a really great state fair which will be a credit of the state. Some of the prominent men of Kansas have been selected to serve on a temporary board of directors which will guide the affairs of the Kansas State Fair association, the reorganized company. This fair will bring throngs of people to the city. Of course, the fair will be a state nistitution as far as its influence is concerned, and it will bring before the nation the vast resources of Kansas, but Topeka Kan—Topeka will show the visitors during fair week a good city.

Among those who do not expect to benefit by the holiday trade are the real estate dealers. Aside from the fact that building has been for the most part suspended on account of the exceptionally cold December weather, and that the prospects are not good for a great deal of building activity during the next month or two, the Christmas plans have held the attention of the would-be real estate buyers, and hence a dull week taking it as a whole. Not dull, how-

ever, as compared with other holiday

The Garlinghouse Realty company is competing an attractive \$6,000 house for the Rey. Ar. J. W. Johnson at Sixteenth and Buchavan streets. The parlor and dining room are fitted with beam ceilings, studded with numerous electric light fixtures, and quartered oak finishing is one of the features. There is a double floor throughout the house. The front veranda covers 500 square feet. The hall, parlor and dining room are fitted with plate glass windows. Bucharian street is becoming one of the attractive residence streets of the city.

M. Walter has purchased from this firm lots on the corner of Sixth and Fillmore streets and contemplates this firm lots on the corner of Sixth and Fillmore streets and contemplates building a fine residence in the spring. The firm also reports that it has recently rented several houses to people who hall from out of town and who say that they expect to build in Topeka at a later date, and that there has been a great deal of inquiry in respect to business property along lower Kansas avenue.

The Square Deal Realty company has sold the house belonging to A. H. Johnson to Tom Curry of Nortonville for the consideration of \$3,000.

A Phonograph Record Made by Wi Ting Fung.

Liewellyn Park, N. J., Dec. 25.—Thomas A. Edison's most prized Christmas present is a phonograph record made for him by Dr. Wu Ting Fang, Chinese Dr. Wu visited the wizard and after inbr. will visited the wizard and after inspecting the inventor's plant and asking innumerable questions about everything he saw, talked into one of Mr. Editaris phonographs.

The record which he left behind him is as follows:

"Mr. Edison has just showed me a great many wonderful things. He is a great man. I have heard about him for many years and have always wanted to meet him. "He has also heard of me, he says,

SANTA CLAUS BARRED

Blue Christmas for Employes of New York Customs House.

New York, Dec. 25 .- It is a blue Christmas for many of the clerks embloved at the New York customs house as a result of the order recently is sued forbidding employes to accept gifts of any kind from outsiders. altogether to the Christmas season, as there are other reasons. There is no question about its being the best Christmas season we have ever had in cases it was a box of cigars, but fre-quently it took the shape of a gen-erous check. Under the new regime

BROOCH FOR MRS. TAFT.

THEY HAVE JOLLY TIME.

Enjoy Rabbit Dinner Followed by Christmas Trees.

The county offices are all quiet today in observance of the Christmas holiday but at the county jail all was activity this morning preparing for the prisoners a Christmas celebration well calculated to alleviate the odium of their preservation. And the unfortunate men

culated to alleviate the odium of their incarceration. And the unfortunate men confident of something unusual were all singing at the top of their voices the score of songs compiled from the contributions of each.

The prisoners forecasted the holiday by the usual custom of hanging stockings. When Undersheriff Bayliss and Deputy Sauls looked around the jail this morning, there on the door of the cell room in the most conspicious view of the bars hung the varied hued socks of 27 inmates. The socks of prisoners offer to an unsuspecting person a liberal education in fancy hosiery and the scenery was enjoyed to the full extent as was undoubtedly intended. But the collection was further enhanced by the irony of underwear—tied at the ends and hung with the inscription, "Oh you Santa!"

Santa!"

The undersheriff's wife did not disappoint the hopefuls in the matter of a Christmas dinner. For the 27 prisoners, an order of 27 rabbits was dumped in her kitchen. No one, however oftimistic, could imagine a turkey dinner for " and let each have his fill but a whole julcy rabbit right off the snow for each one is a n.ost happy thought. The bushy tailed rompers from the snowy fields were served with real Christmas trimmings. Cranberries, celery, mashed potatoes, and mince pie were added as trimmings. No more satisfying menu has been offered at the isfying menu has been offered at the

jail in decades.

But yet that is not all the joy in store. The Y. M. C. A. men have stored in the parlor cell two Christmas trees, a bushel of apples, a quantity of nuts and other treats and are expected to bring more cheer when they come down to set up the evergreens this evergence.

seem to those have been confined a ength of time, will strike as mockery on the undried tears of two youths thrown in last night—on Christmas eve—Morris LaCroix for the theft of \$24 and Alian Sawyer on a statutory charge. No unpleasantness is chalked against Undersheriff Jaller Bayliss however, for he is living to his reputation of the kindest hearted jailer in the history of the fall.

SHE STARTS A SCHOOL.

Mrs. Belmont Will Educate Workers in Suffrage Ceuse.

New York, Dec. 25.—The latest fea-ture of woman suffrage work here is a suffrage settlement house. It is be-ing established in a three-story build-ing on 114th street, which Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont has rented for the pur-

The settlment house will be used for club meetings and as a general meeting place for those interested in suffrage work. Educational work will be carried on and the young women pupils will be sent out to convert the world to the cause of votes for women.

BEE KEEPERS TO EAT HONEY.

Shawnee County Raisers Will Eat and Talk Next Week.

In accordance with the session laws of 1905, Shawnee county has appointed a bee inspector. The appointment ed a bee inspector. The appointment was made at the regular meeting of the commissioners Friday. J. P. Lucas, a local authority on bee culture, was appointed upon the petition of 25 bee raisers of the county.

The duties of the bee inspector are to inspect all domestic hives in the

county, see that no foul broods are installed or infectious bee diseases in sight. He is paid \$2 per day for his time while actively engaged in the inspection. He gives \$200 bond and is sworn in as a county officer.

Mr. Lucas is also secretary of the



HALL CAINE, FAMOUS NOVELIST AND DRAMATIST.

Hall Caine, author of many interesting novels and plays, was born on the Isle of Man May 14, 1853. He was educated in Liverpool in the profession of an architect, but took to writing as soon as he left school. In his youth he became the close companion and friend of D. G. Rossetti, the famous poetpainter, whose influence reflected itself upon his career ever afterward. His greatest works are "The Deemster," "The Bondman," "The Christian," "The Manxman" and "The Eternal City," all of which have been enjoyed either in dramatic or novel form by millions of people.

"honey banquet" at the Cafe Trapp All persons interested in bee culture are invited to attend. This is the menu of the banquet:

menu of the banquet:

Oyster Soup Salted Crackers

Honey Salad

Hot biscults with honey.

Steamed rice with honey sauce.

Honey apple butter.

Honey ginger snaps Honey layer cake

Coffee

Honey in comb Extracted honey.

Extracted honey Granulated honey
California White Sage honey

BASKETS FOR HUNGRY.

Christmas Cheer Distributed by Charitable Organizations.

Allied in the cause of humanity, but working distinctive of each other the charitable organizations of Topeka have done .nuch during the past few days in making merry for the poor and destitute the Yuletide season. Approximately 500 baskets have been distributed, and triple that number of hearts have been made glad.

Captain A. M. Perry of the American Salvation army reports that yesterday the organization distributed 75 baskets, which was followed today by perhaps thirty five more. The children of twelve families were fitted with winter clothing without charge, as is the custom of the corps. The hall on East Fourth street he reports has been full every night for some time past, and at the service last night—the eve of Christmas—three were converted.

The Salvation army corps, 1126 Madison street got out over 200 baskets yesterday, and some more are going out today. Those sent out this morning are not the regular baskets, however, and are being given to those who call for them at the headquarters. Their Christmas tree for children is given on the iast night of the year.

Mrs. L. E. Thorpe, the Topeka police matron, who for seventeen years has given to those to whom it was thought no others would look out for, has done a considerable work again this year. Mrs. Thorpe, while not soliciting gifts for the poor, has given out to the needy all that has been sent her and much herself as an individual. Among others her charity has extended to the little Russians who live here, and who are timid about finding the places where Christmastide reigns. The Humane society has been delivering to the poor who can not get about those things which have been distributed by Mrs. Thorpe.

Much has also been done by the Provident association, which organiza-

Mrs. Thorpe.

Much has also been done by the Provident association, which organization has been engaged in charitable endeavor during the past seven days. Last night and this morning Guy T. Justis, the general secretary was an Justis, the general secretary was an acceptance.

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proved by City Engineer and Fire Marshal.

Petition to grade and pave alleys in blook bounded by Topeka avenue, Tyler street, Eighth avenue and Seventh street, signed by W. H. Kemper and others, was presented, read and referred to Streets and Walks Committee.

Communication from Matt. Campbell relative to excess taxes, was presented, read and referred to Judiciary Committee for investigation.

Communication from W. S. Fulton relative to Electric Sign in front of Kiehl Laundry was presented, read and request granted.

Communication from Mayor relative to pavement repaired was presented, read and referred to Claims and Accounts Committee.

Communication from John Ritchie requesting additional time on paving contract, was presented, read and filed.

Communication from Jack Hammel relative to damage to pony was presented, read and referred to Judiciary Committee.

Reports of Weights and Measures in-

The control of the co



We know you are busy with your Holiday Festivities

Topeka property offered today. \$3100 will buy two east front lots, fine location on Topeka avenue, 8 room modern house, furnace, bath, gas and electricity. Near car line, and \$1500 will handle this proposition. This bargain cannot last, and if you are looking for a home you had better see us at once.

For city property see

GEO. M. NOBLE & CO. J. Will Kelley.

435 Kansas Ave.

Topeka, Kansas.

SHAWNEE AGENCY

WASTE NO TIME

a cottage you want. New 5 room clots, 200 feet deep, cemented basemet cottage for \$2,100. Very easy terms

Phones 505

Jordan and Tandy—2. The title was read and approved.

An ordinance amending Section 3 or Ordinance No. 2800, entitled "An ordinance granting the right of way to the Topeka Southwestern Railway company, its successors or assigns through the City of Topeka, Kansas, and repealing Ordinance No. 287, and repealing Ordinance No. 287, and repealing original Section 3, of Ordinance No. 290, and Ordinance No. 287, and repealing original Section 3, of Ordinance No. 290, and Ordinance No. 287, and repealing original Section 3, of Ordinance No. 290, and Ordinance No. 287, and repealing original Section 3, of Ordinance No. 287, and repealing original Section 3, of Ordinance No. 287, and repealing original Section 3, of Ordinance No. 287, and repealing original Section 3, of Ordinance No. 287, and repealing the City of Topeka, in regard to their location, size, construction and the matter allowable on the same and providing punishment for the violation thereof was presented by Councilman Howard and referred to Pclice Committee.

Bill from Topeka Railway company for raising track on Eighth street was presented, read and referred to Claims and Accounts Committee.

Communication from The Fair Mercantille company requesting to hang electric sign above sidewalk was presented by Councilman Howard was adopted on his own motion:

"Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Topeka, that the City Attorney be and he is hereby directed to draw, an ordinance providing for a raise in salary of \$10.00 per month for each employee of the Fire Department except the Chief and watch boys."

The following resolution presented by Councilman Stanley was, on motion, rejected:

"Resolved by the Mayor and Council that the City Attorney be and he is hereby elected:

"Resolved by the Mayor and Council that the City Attorney be and he is hereby acceptance." Jordan and Tandy-2. The title was read

INVEST IN FARM

Largest returns for an abso-intely safe investment. Why ac-cept 3 per cent when you can just as well have 5 or 6 per cent? We have first mortgages of any amount you may desire. Here are a few of them: